

Assessment Concepts

Assessment is the initiation of building a trusting, helping, and healing relationship.

It forges an alliance upon which to build a plan responsive to the child and family's needs.

Here are some things to consider as you interview children/youth and their families to gather information to prepare assessment reports.

Frequently identified issues relating to Assessments

- Lack of adequate assessment data
- Limited analysis or integration of information
- Uncertainty about goals and objectives
- Inconsistent participation by children and families receiving services

How information is gathered is critical

- The in-depth gathering of data and information is needed to understand the child and family's needs.
- It is a pre-requisite to developing a successful plan of care.
- Use a strengths-based approach.
 - Focus on actions rather than revealing all the problem areas.
- This helps build trust, cooperation, and meaningful involvement by the child and family.

Strengths Inventory

- Abilities, talents, competencies, accomplishments in any range of settings from home to school and work to other social settings
- Values and traditions
- Interests, hopes, dreams, aspirations, and motivation
- Resources and assets monetary/economic as well as social/interpersonal
- Unique physical attributes physical, psychological, performance capacities, sense of humor
- Circumstances at home, school, work, or in the community that have worked well in the past
- Family members, relatives, friends, and other natural supports (formal and informal relationships) within the community